GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Depletion of Groundwater Resources
Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any policy initiatives to control depletion of goundwater resources and if so, the details of the schemes or policies in this regard;
(b) the punishments or penalty for the offenders or those responsible for misuse of groundwater; and
(c) the Budget allocated for research related to Groundwater along with the progress made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) According to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR,RD&GR) has formulated National Water Policy (2012) which inter alia advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall, recycle and reuse of water and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State/UT Governments for adoption.

(b) Punishment of fine, imprisonment or both can be imposed under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) CGWB has reported that research projects are sponsored by MoWR, RD&GR through three Indian National Committees (INCs) viz: on Surface Water, Ground Water and Climate Change under its planned scheme "Research & Development (R&D) Programme in Water Sector" wherein an allocation of ?2.25 crore has been made during the financial year 2016-17. Currently, eight (8) groundwater research projects are on-going under the Indian National Committee on Ground Water.

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